

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

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FOR USDEL CSCE

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 8349 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LENINGRAD
DATED JUN 11:

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 8349

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC SHUL PFOR SOPN

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF LOS ANGELES TIME CORRESPONDENT TOTH

1. ROBERT TOTH, LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, WAS
APPREHENDED BY MILITIA AT 9:15 A.M. JUNE 11 AFTER RECEIVING
PAPER ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY FROM SOVIET CITIZEN. TOTH DETAINED
ON GROUNDS THAT PAPER CONTAINED STATE SECRETS. VICE CONSUL NAPPER
WAS INFORMED OF INCIDENT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF MFA PRESS
DIVISION SHORTLY BEFORE NOON. NAPPER WAS NOT TOLD OF
REASON FOR DETENTION BUT WAS TOLD THAT HE COULD HAVE
ACCESS TO TOTH AT MILITIA STATION #17 AT PUSHKINSKAYA
STREET #28.

2. WHEN NAPPER ARRIVED AT MILITIA STATION, PROTOCOL ON
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INCIDENT HAD ALREADY BEEN DRAWN UP BASED ON TESTIMONY OF
TWO "WITNESSES" AND TOTH'S OWN ORAL STATEMENT. PRESENT
AT STATION WERE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS
REPRESENTATIVE OF KGB, TWO PLAINCLOTHES MILITIA OFFICERS,
AND
THE TWO "WITNESSES". IN ADDITION TO PROTOCOL, KGB OFFICER
SHOWED TOTH AND CONSOFF STATEMENT REPORTEDLY MADE BY REPRESENTA-

TIVE OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES THAT MATERIAL PASSED TO TOTH
CONTAINED STATE SECRETS.

3. AFTER HIS RELEASE AT APPROXIMATELY 12:45 P.M., TOTH
TOLD CONSOFF THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS INTEREST IN
SOVIET PARAPSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH WITH REFUSENIK EDWARD
TIKHONOV PRIOR TO TIKHONOV'S EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IN
FALL 1976. TIKHONOV AGREED TO PUT TOTH IN
CONTACT WITH SOVIETS ENGAGED IN PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH,
BUT TOTH HEARD NOTHING MORE ON SUBJECT UNTIL MEETING
IN FEBRUARY 1977 AT APARTMENT OF DISSIDENT REFUSENIK
ANATOLY SHCHARANSKIY. SHCHARANSKIY INTRODUCED TOTH TO
SOVIET NAMED VALERY PETUKOV WHO LATER TURNED OUT TO BE
CHIEF OF BIO-MEDICAL LABORATORY AT TARASSEVICH INSTITUTE.

4. PETUKOV GAVE TOTH ARTICLE IN ENGLISH ON PARAPSYCHOLOGY
AND REQUESTED THAT TOTH PUBLICIZE HIS WORK AND HELP HIM GET IT
PUBLISHED IN WESTERN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS. TOTH LATER SENT ARTICLE
OUT WITH ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT WHO IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SUBMITTED
IT FOR PUBLICATION TO A US SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL.
ACCORDING TO TOTH, HE AND PETUKOV MET ONCE IN APRIL BUT
NOTHING WAS PASSED AT THAT MEETING. PETUKOV THEN
TELEPHONED TOTH JUNE 11 TO REQUEST MEETING SAME DAY TO
PASS ANOTHER ARTICLE. THE TWO MET,BUT, AS SOON AS THE
MATERIAL WAS PASSED, BOTH TOTH AND PETUKOV WERE APPRE-
HENDED. TOTH ORALLY RELATED SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO
KGB OFFICIAL UBT LEFT OUT SHCHARANSKIY'S ROLE IN
PUTTING HIM IN CONTACT WITH PETUKOV. ON CONSOFF'S ADVICE,
TOTH DECLINED TO SIGN PROTOCOL. WHEN CONSOFF ASKED TO
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RECEIVE COPY OF PROTOCOL AND STATEMENT ALLEGING
THAT ARTICLE CONTAINED STATE SECRETS, KGB OFFICIAL STATED
THAT TOTH WOULD RECEIVE COPY SOON, POSSIBLY MONDAY, THROUGH MFA
PRESS DIVISION.

5. TOTH HAS INFORMED US THAT HE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO
PROTEST INCIDENT TO MFA. HE HAS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE
ON INCIDENT AT REUTERS' OFFICER HERE, WITH AP, NY TIMES, AND
OTHER CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT WHO WILL PASS STORY ON TO REST OF
PRESS CORPS. TOON UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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